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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,033	09/25/2003	James E. Mickelson	03RE135/YOD REEL:0050	6689
7590 06/08/2006				
Alexander M. Gerasimow Allen-Bradley Company, LLC 1201 South Second Street Milwaukee, WI 53204-2496			EXAMINER FOOTLAND, LENARD A	
			ART UNIT 3682	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Applicant's election with traverse of the stock material subcombination remains.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 27 are allowed.

The finality of the previous Office action is withdrawn.

Applicant's amendment after final has been entered.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 27 are allowed.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kingon et al. in view of official notice of common knowledge in the art, and/or, in the alternative, engineering design choice.

See Kingon et al. at fig. 3. Note metallic substrate 18, electroless nickel alloy layer (barrier layer) 12 (col. 3, lines 1-2) with phosphorus disposed thereover, and outer electrolytic nickel layer (second conductive layer) 22 (col. 4, line 8 and line 3) disposed thereover. Note polymer 26.

The examiner finds that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to provide the additional feature(s) in question such as eliminating barrier or other layers, since it was known in the art to do so to simplify production, for example.

Alternatively or additionally, the examiner finds that the broad provision of these features *vis-à-vis* that disclosed by the reference solves no stated problem insofar as the record is concerned and, accordingly, would have been an obvious matter of design choice. See *In re Kuhle*, 526 F.2d 553, 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975).

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

They are rendered moot by the new grounds of rejection.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lenard A. Footland, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7103.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lenard A. Footland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lenard A. Footland

Primary Examiner

Technology Center 3600

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laf

June 4, 2006